THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY): (a) The percentage of area covered by forests in the country is 20.64.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Project for cleaning of Yamuna

2509. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started a project for cleaning of Yamuna water in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the project is successful;

(c) the amount of expenditure which has been incurred during this project; and

(d) the reasons for its failure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yamuna Action Plans (YAP) have been taken up by Government of India with the assistance of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in a phased manner for undertaking pollution abatement works for the river Yamuna. Under the phase-I of YAP launched in April, 1993, 753.25 million litres per day (mld) of sewage treatment capacity was created, of which 30 mld in Delhi. YAP-I was declared closed in February, 2003.

Under the YAP-II, which commenced in December, 2004 at an approved cost of Rs. 624 crore, major portion of the outlay *i.e.* Rs. 387.17 crore, has been allocated to Delhi. A sewage treatment capacity of 135 mld is envisaged to be created under YAP-II in Delhi. In addition, projects for the rehabilitation of 324 mld treatment capacity and rehabilitation/laying of trunk sewers for a length of 30.82 kms are also envisaged under the YAP-II. So far under YAP-II, an amount of Rs. 29.5 crore has been released to the implementing agencies in Delhi for implementation of the sanctioned schemes. In addition to the above Action Plan, the Government of Delhi has also taken up large scale non-sewerage, sewerage and sewage treatment works out of their own plan funds.

Implementation of the river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and continuous activity under which various schemes of pollution abatement are implemented by the Government based upon the estimated pollution loads. The quality of water in Yamuna river has not shown the desired improvement, particularly in Delhi, due to enormous increase in pollution load and lack of fresh water in the river during lean period.

Role of RCCF in protection of forests and wildlife

2510. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a Regional Chief Conservator of Forests posted at Bangalore;

(b) the duties and role assigned to him in protection of forests and wildlife;